

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 24020 261214Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /079 W

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R 261101Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 24020

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, LA, TH, VN

SUBJ: OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IN INDOCHINA

REF: (A) BANGKOK 22670 (B) VIENTIANE 2018 (C) HONG KONG 9526
(D) BK IR 6 895 0335 76 (DTG 250937Z (NOTAL))

1. AS REPORTED REF A, BOTH VIET-NAM AND LAOS AGREED TO EXTEND
OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IN PRINCIPLE TO THAI, WITH NEXT STEP BEING
DISCUSSIONS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL TO WORK OUT DETAILS. ICAO ACTING
CHIEF IN BANGKOK, BERLTA, ADVISES THAT HE WROTE LAO AND THAI
AVIATION AUTHORITIES AUGUST 19 TO INVITE THEM TO SUCH A MEETING
AT TECHNICAL LEVEL IN BANGKOK ON SEPTEMBER 7 IN ORDER TO WORK OUT
DETAILS FOR OVERFLIGHTS OF LAOS BY PLANES FLYING FROM BANGKOK.
MEETING, WHICH BERLTA IS FAIRLY CONFIDENT WILL TAKE PLACE, WILL
PRESUMABLY REMOVE LAST REAL OBSTACLE TO BANGKOK-HONG KONG ROUTE
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 24020 261214Z

OVERFLYING INDOCHINA (REF C).

2. DAO HAS LEARNED FROM RTG DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION OFFICIAL OF VIENTIANE AREA CONTROL CENTER REQUEST TO THAT OFFICE TO CONSIDER OPENING THE APPROPRIATE AIRWAY OCTOBER 7 TO FACILITATE THESE FLIGHTS (REF D). THIS ACTION AND NECESSARY REALIGNMENT OF ANOTHER AIRWAY APPEARS TO POSE NO PROBLEM, ACCORDING TO DAO SOURCES.

3. SAME OFFICIAL REPORTED FOLLOWING LIST OF AIRLINES WITH PDRL AND SRV APPROVAL TO OVERFLY THEIR COUNTRIES: AIR FRANCE, AIR INDIA, ALITALIA, BOAC, CATHAY PACIFIC, KLM, PIA, SWISS-AIR, LUFT-HANSA, UNITED ARAB, SAS, SABENA, UNION OF BURMA, THAI INTERNATIONAL, AND AIR SIAM.

4. THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT INDO CHINA OVERFLIGHT ISSUE IS WELL ALONG TOWARD FINAL RESOLUTION. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION HERE THAT THE LAO MAY NOT ALLOW SUCH OVERFLIGHTS NOR RELEASE ANY THAI PRISONERS IN LAO JAILS UNTIL THAILAND REOPENS ADDITIONAL BORDER POINTS. WHILE DENYING LINKAGE OF THESE ISSUES, A RESPONSIBLE MFA OFFICIAL TOLD US WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE BORDER POINTS OPENED VERY SOON, AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAI TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 25 THAT CABINET WILL DISCUSS QUESTION AND MAKE FINAL DECISION ON IT AUGUST 31. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEK NANA TOLD PRESS AUGUST 24 THAT ONE OF THE BORDER POINTS TO BE OPENED WILL BE MUKDAHAN (OPPOSITE SAVANNAKHET).
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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